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Application of:

)
: Examiner: Unassigned

: Group Art Unit: 2612

$$:$$

February 15, 2002

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Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed. The cited Japanese document may be pertinent for the reasons discussed at page 1 of the specification

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications:

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>
09/440,467	11/15/99	2721
09/521,424	3/8/00	2766

Copies of the above-cited applications are enclosed.

FEE STATEMENT

No fee or statement is required in connection with this Information Disclosure statement, since it is being submitted prior to expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an annotated copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned with the next official communication indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

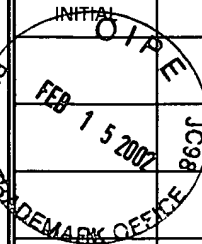
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. J. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Date Submitted to PTO: February 15, 2002			ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.015945		APPLICATION NO. 09/987,832	
			APPLICANT Satoru WAKAO, et al.			
			FILING DATE November 16, 2001		GROUP 2612	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
*EXAMINER <small>INITIAL</small>	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE <small>IF APPROPRIATE</small>
	6,088,454	7/11/2000	Nagashima, et al.	380	49	
	5,937,395	8/10/99	Iwamura	705	30	
	5,666,419	9/9/97	Yamamoto, et al.	380	28	
	5,600,720	2/4/97	Iwamura, et al.	380	1	
	5,499,294	3/12/96	Friedman	380	10	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	9-200730	7/31/97	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not

considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1